

August 5, 2011 For Immediate Release Carthage, N.C. Moore County Participates In Saving The Crepe Myrtle Trees

. The Moore County Board of Commissioners approved a plan to save 140 crepe myrtle trees from perishing due to NC Department of Transportation project on US 1. Moore County Government was recently contacted by Barnhill Construction regarding the possibility of the County acquiring these trees.

NCDOT awarded Barnhill Construction a contract for infrastructure improvements along US Highway 1 from the Morganton Road bridge North for approximately 3 ½ miles. This area has crepe myrtle tree plantings, that must be removed in order for construction to begin.

Officials from Moore County considered how the trees could be used and looked into ways to hold down the cost of transporting them, should the NCDOT continue its plan to have the trees removed.

The County received several quotes and selected McCrimmon Landscaping to provide the landscape spade, dig, transport and transplant the trees at a reduced cost of \$19,856.25. The County acknowledges a \$7,000.00 donation from the company toward the cost.

"As a Moore County native this is my home town," shared Todd McCrimmon, "I take pride in its progress and enjoy my ability to give back to the community whenever I can. I just felt this was a way I could contribute."

In addition, the Moore Parks Foundation contacted the County and offered to donate \$9,000.00 to pay for all of the crepe myrtles to be transplanted to Hillcrest Park to benefit the Dixie Youth World Series which begins on August 12, 2011. "We, as a Foundation, are very pleased to beautify Moore County and continue to be a contributor to Hillcrest Park," said chairman Mitchell Harris. This donation reduces the public cost to \$10,856.25, which lowers the price by nearly half from \$141.83 to \$77.55 per tree. An average cost of similar trees is \$240.00 per tree or approximately \$33,600 for this project.

Also, Riley Paving donated the use of traffic signs and cones to control closing lanes to work safely in the median as the trees are being removed .

The rental cost of this equipment would have been \$2500.00 if contracted out by the county.

County Manager Cary McSwain said that he is pleased that Moore County government and the business community have stepped up to make this project a possibility. "This is a great example

of One Team, One Mission,” said McSwain.

The plan to locate the transplanted crepe myrtles includes the following:

**** Hillcrest Park New Parking Lot: to enhance and beautify the additional parking area needed for the Dixie Youth World Series.**

**** Public Safety Center (new building site): part of the landscaping plan for beautification of the public square.**

**** Senior Enrichment Center: compliment the natural beauty of the existing gardens.**

**** Pincrest High School: Assist horticultural class design plan to improve the parking entrance area.**

**** Various other County Government office locations.**

The County is excited to be able to save the crepe myrtles in partnership with the NCDOT, Barnhill Construction, McCrimmon Landscaping, Riley Paving and the Moore Parks Foundation. This partnership will allow appropriate beautiful enhancements to public facilities at an extraordinarily reasonable cost.